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From Our Founder



"A year from now, you'll wish you had started today...."

How many times have I said that about exercising, weight watching, quiet time observance? Thankfully, Impact Austin doesn't procrastinate. At the Town Hall Meetings in late April, members celebrated our accomplishments over the past year and learned what our priorities are for FY2011. One of those priorities is the founder transition.

Here's where we are on that:

- Impact Austin has engaged an organizational development consultant who will lead us through an organizational assessment and, perhaps as importantly, guide us through priorities which include the best way to accomplish the transition, including strategy and leadership planning.

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FAC Update

Our 2010 Community Partner Finalists Have Been Chosen!

Culture:

Badgerdog Literary Publishing: *It's Elementary! Bringing the Literary Arts to East Austin*

Paramount and State Theaters: *Literacy to Life*

Education:

Caritas of Austin: *Food Industry Education and Training Program*

Communities In Schools of Central Texas (CIS): *XY-Zone Expansion*

Environment:

Austin Parks Foundation: *Barton Creek Trail Corps*

The Trail Foundation: *Johnson Creek Trailhead*

- I have agreed to stay on as CEO through June 2011, if necessary. This gives the board a more realistic time-line for accomplishing the founder transition.
- Three board members have resigned...a natural occurrence when transitions take place. These are normal growing pains, not only as we more fully implement our governance board and operations organization, but also as we care for a founder transition. These positions will be back-filled with other fabulous women.

Please check this column each month for updates on our progress with the transition. For more questions and answers about the founder transition check out these [FAQs by clicking here](#). If you'd like to chat about this in person, I'm always available for coffee. If you'd like to help on the transition committee, please let me know that too! We are discovering a lot about ourselves...it's fascinating and exciting. Can't wait to see how this unfolds...stay tuned!!

-Rebecca Powers,
Founder and CEO

Mark Your Calendar

Annual Meeting

June 8, 2010

6:00pm - 9:00pm

[RSVP NOW!](#)

Congregation Agudas Achim
Dell Jewish Community Campus
7300 Hart Lane
Austin, TX 78731

[Map](#)

Member Spotlight

by Jean Carpenter-Backus

Family:

CASA of Travis County: *Expanding to Serve 100% of Travis County Youth Aging Out of Foster Care*

Texas Advocacy Project: *Texas Justice Initiative Bilingual Expansion*

Health and Wellness:

Austin Groups for the Elderly (AGE): *Safety for Seniors Program*

Capital Area Food Bank of Texas: *Kids Cafe*

Keep an eye out for the Finalist Reports coming your way via e-mail on May 25th. All 10 Finalist Reports and voting process details will be included in the e-mail. The Finalist Reports contain project summaries that our Focus Area Committees are forwarding to each member in preparation for the final vote.

***Please make time to read through each of the finalist reports prior to the Annual Meeting on June 8th.** These reports provide critical information that will help you make an informed decision.

Volunteer Update

Volunteer Interest Meeting Coming Soon

Thanks to everyone who expressed an interest in volunteering during the recent Town Hall Meetings! If you missed the opportunity to sign up, don't fret. A Volunteer Interest Meeting will be held this summer and you are invited!

The meeting will be for members who have already signed up and want to learn more in addition to those who have not yet expressed a formal interest but are looking for ways to make an even greater impact. Additionally, our Committee Cabinet Chairs will be available to discuss any specific questions you have regarding volunteer opportunities on various committees.

In the meantime, if you have questions or want to speak with someone directly about volunteering with Impact Austin, please contact Kay Wilemon at kwilemon@impact-austin.org.

Community Partner Spotlight

Capital IDEA Update

A soft-spoken woman with a beautiful smile, Elaine dreamed of



Jean (right) and her sister

I joined Impact Austin at the end of last year. I was actually floored that an organization like this not only existed but was made up of women, thrived in an economic downslide, was impeccably managed AND was in Austin! Yay for us! I was sold at hello (my first meeting). I was so, so ready to dive in and volunteer on one of the teams - any of the teams that needed help... anytime... anywhere. Then, I was side tracked when my sister phoned and said she had been diagnosed with liver cancer. She is my only sister as well as my twin and I have been flying back and forth to North Carolina to be with her. She was just placed on a liver transplant list two weeks ago at UNC in Chapel Hill.

I am only telling this story because I wanted to be more involved in Impact Austin and wanted to take my hat off and congratulate all of the women who have made this such a brilliant organization. This is 100% aligned with my purpose. I had a job, then a 30 year career and now I have a calling. I help women navigate past their financial fear. On the other side they are greeted with eye opening clarity of who they are financially - their unique financial identity. I have been sharing Impact Austin with my twin - it is like a TV show that builds on itself with anticipation till you reach the conclusion...

What does your membership mean to you and what would you like others to know about Impact Austin? We'd love to hear your story!

To share your story, please email Anne Webster at awebster@impact-austin.org

becoming a nurse - a dream that seemed impossible until she came to a Capital IDEA orientation. Her husband was supportive, but with five children, his earnings were not enough for tuition, let alone day care. Just managing their monthly expenses was a challenge.

With Capital IDEA financing her tuition, books, and childcare, and with the weekly support of her Capital IDEA Career Counselor, Elaine enrolled, beginning the long road to her degree as a Licensed Vocational Nurse.

It hasn't been an easy road. The birth of a sixth child, a car breakdown, and the day-to-day challenges of raising six children all threatened to keep Elaine from succeeding. But with the support of her family and with Capital IDEA by her side, Elaine will graduate from ACC in December 2010. She can look forward to a starting salary of about \$20.00 per hour, or \$40,000 per year.



A group of Capital IDEA's 2009 nursing graduates, with Executive Director Steve Jackobs and Career Counselor Maria Mora

Impact Austin's grant has helped support Elaine's program costs in Capital IDEA. As a Williamson County resident, she is one of 50 current participants in the rural Central Texas counties who are receiving services through Impact Austin's grant.

Capital IDEA supports low-income adults in receiving the education they need to pursue careers that are in-demand, pay a living wage, and offer benefits. There are 734 current participants in Capital IDEA's program, and another 760 who have been served by Capital IDEA who are now employed in living wage careers.

Connect with Us

We invite you to connect with Impact Austin's social media community. This is a great way to keep in touch with other Impact Austin members and stay up-to-date on our current events. Please join us on:



And don't forget to check out **Rebecca's Blog** at:
<http://impactaustinblog.wordpress.com/>

Our Mission

We're a progressive leader in women's philanthropy, bringing new resources to the community and making philanthropy accessible. Through high-impact grant making, we engage, develop and inspire women to effect positive change.

Our Vision

Our vision is that our women are inspirational role models reaching their full giving potential for a better quality of life in our community. We will ensure our long-term sustainability by tapping into the talents of our members and building Impact Austin from the "inside out."

Our Values

Transparency - We are an open book.

Excellence - We are thorough, professional and go above and beyond.

Inclusiveness - We are open to all women.

Democracy - Each member has an equal voice.

Integrity - We are honest and ethical.

The impact is transformational. On average, graduates from the program triple their income - from \$13,000 annually to \$40,000 or more. Graduates move off public assistance rolls, pay increased taxes into the community, and most importantly, enjoy true financial stability for themselves and their families. Their children, seeing their example, are far more likely to complete high school and pursue higher education.

Thank you, Impact Austin, for helping to transform the lives of Central Texans!

Girls Giving Grants 2010 Community Partner Chosen

Girls Giving Grants chooses Austin Sunshine Camps Sunrise Leadership Program as its 2010 Community Partner.



G3 Members presenting ASC with their grant check

On April 24, G3 members awarded a \$5,700 check to Austin Sunshine Camps (ASC). ASC plans to use the grant funds to finance visits to ten college campuses for 30 to 40 economically disadvantaged high school students participating in ASC's year-round program of academic mentoring and tutoring aimed at raising high school graduation rates and increased college participation.

"We G3 members know how awesome college visits were for us so we are really excited about helping Sunshine Leadership kids have that same experience," said Oriana Wright, G3 president and a junior at Westlake High School.

Respect - We consider the impact of our words and actions on others.

Accountability - We say what we're going to do and we do it.

Innovation - We are creative, but prudent risk-takers.

Continuous improvement - Through feedback and other input, we are always improving.

Membership Update

5-Year Membership Anniversary Celebration

In 2010, fifty-five women are celebrating their five-year membership anniversary with Impact Austin. These dedicated members have witnessed the power of collective giving because with our 2010 grants, Impact Austin will have given over \$2 million dollars during their tenure. Several of the members recently gathered together to celebrate their accomplishments together. One 5-year member summed up her experience by stating "IA is such a great blessing for all the fabulous relationships that are born!" A special thanks to our five-year members this year for helping to shape the organization...we are grateful for your support.



A proud group of the 5-year members

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